

Florence County Museum

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For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Museum at 843/676-1200 or visit (flocomuseum.org).

Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, Offers Works by Charleston, SC, Artists

The Aiken Center for the Arts in Aiken, SC, will present *Interwoven: The Art of Indigo and Silver*, curated by Brandy Culp, featuring works by Jack Alterman, Kaminer Haislip and Madame Magar, on view from Mar. 30 through May 3, 2023. A reception will be held on Mar. 30, from 6-8pm.

The exhibition brought together three contemporary artists - a silversmith, textile designer, and photographer - and a curator in 2018 at City Gallery located in Charleston, SC. Curator Brandy Culp worked with Jack Alterman, Kaminer Haislip, and Madame Magar to weave a story based on their artwork and the Lowcountry's deep culture both past and present. Haislip and Magar are now bringing a second version of this exhibition to Aiken Center for the Arts situated in historic downtown Aiken, SC.

This exhibition explores the intersection between the past and present while recognizing that ultimately contemporary art and craft must be rooted in its own time. Inextricably linked, indigo and silver are transformative as raw materials, imbued with symbolism that transcends time and cultures, and embedded within the early cultural fabric of the Carolina Lowcountry. Although inspired by Charleston's cultural heritage, each artist brings unique contemporary perspective and original artwork to the exhibition. *Interwoven* will include silver hollowware, flatware and jewelry, textile art, and artist renderings.

Kaminer Haislip is the only practicing female silversmith in Charleston that continues to employ traditional metalworking techniques and tools that have been used for centuries. As a contemporary silversmith, she is inspired by as well as carrying forth the city's long-standing silversmithing tradition - the silver and metals manufacturing trade was vital to Charleston's economy from the eighteenth through the early-twentieth centuries. With a nod to the past, she is most inspired by today's domestic rituals and enhancing daily life through the creation of functional handcrafted objects that are entirely contemporary in form.

Milliner turned textile artist Leigh Magar has established a small-batch label that combines art, fashion, history, and performance. The "Seed to Stitch" project was inspired by her sea island home's Indigo history; both rich and tangled. The story of a young girl; Eliza Lucas Pinckney, who had the vision of planting indigo and with the work of the enslaved, it was made into a



Works by Kaminer Haislip and Madame Magar, photo by Jack Alterman

cash crop in South Carolina during the mid 1700s. She interweaves design and nature with her local garden where indigo is grown and then used to create one-of-a-kind collections. Her work includes hand-dyed and hand-stitched garments and goods, textile art, and installations. Magar is inspired by traditional and simple sewing techniques, such as quilt making, rag quilting, and hand sewn-textiles, which she interlaces with contemporary, non-traditional elements.

In addition, Haislip, and Magar will create a collaborative installation for the exhibition inspired by the silhouette and miniature - art forms with long-standing Lowcountry traditions. Providing a modern look at historically significant mediums, these artists are transforming materials important to Charleston's cultural fabric into contemporary art and inspiring appreciation of waning craft traditions among future generations. *Interwoven: The Art of Indigo and Silver* will be a unique showing of silver and textile art as it relates the theme of indigo and silver.

For further information check our SC Institutional Gallery, call the Center at 803/641-9094 or visit (www.aikencentre-forthearts.org).

Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, Offers Exhibition of Islamic Art

The Columbia Museum of Art in Columbia, SC, is presenting *Reverent Ornament: Art from the Islamic World*, on view through May 14, 2023.

Organized by the Huntington Museum of Art and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC, the exhibition offers some 45 works with which to explore the arts and crafts traditions and scientific innovations of Iran, Egypt, India, Syria, and Turkey from the 10th to the 19th centuries.

What was in Western culture historically considered the Near Eastern world - roughly, a vast stretch of regions including India and the Asian countries to its west - is a vivid patchwork of many different peoples, languages, and traditions, with a history stretching back to Neolithic times. Comprising works of fine glassware, ceramics, metalwork, painting, weaponry, weaving, and much more, *Reverent Ornament* shares timeless Islamic art that celebrates everyday life, history, and culture.



Bowl, 19th century. Egypt or Syria. Brass with silver and copper inlay. Gift of Drs. Joseph and Omayma Touma and family. Photo provided.

The works, all of which come from the collection of Drs. Joseph and Omayma

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Touma, include objects meant for palaces as well as ordinary homes, evoking a rich vision of daily life and highlighting the humanism, scientific advancements, artistry, and reverence of the people who used and created them, many of whom belong to groups that have been historically maligned and misrepresented in much of Western culture. While these objects showcase the artistic output of a wide array of societies, they share certain visual commonalities shaped in part by the prevailing cultural and religious practices of Islam and cross-cultural exchange among many dynamic groups.

Though the vast stretch of regions that fall under the umbrella of the "Islamic world" were shaped to some extent by the practice of Islam, the region sometimes called SWANA (South and West Asia and North Africa) has always encompassed vibrant places where people from many religious groups intermingle. It is for this reason that the Toumas chose to include in their collection objects that reflect belief systems outside of the Muslim faith, to include copies of sacred Hindu texts and Christian icons. Such objects, like those for Christian or Jewish patrons, were at times created by Muslim craftspeople, again underscoring the fact that despite their different ways of worship, these groups have more that unites than divides them.

"While the individual pieces are dazzling in their elaborate ornament, the great strength of this exhibition is in its diversity and its power to open minds and reinforce connections," says CMA Curator of Education Glenna Barlow. "Each of the works on view speaks volumes not only about the culture it came from but the connections between them - universal values of creative exploration, innovation, and reverence that unite us, all in objects that are beautiful to behold."

Reverent Ornament: Art from the Islamic World was organized by the Huntington Museum of Art and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC. Supporting Sponsors include: Dr. Suzanne R. Thorpe and Dr. John W. Baynes. Patron Sponsor: Dr. Jessica Kross. Media Sponsors: Grace



Iznik, Turkey, Ottoman, Dish, 1600-1625, underglaze-painted fritware. Gift of Drs. Joseph and Omayma Touma and family.

Outdoor; WXYR 99.3 FM. Grantors: City of Columbia; Experience Columbia SC; Richland County Government; South Carolina Arts Commission; and Discover South Carolina.

The Columbia Museum of Art is a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to lifelong learning and community enrichment for all. Located in the heart of downtown Columbia, SC, the CMA ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and creative educational programs. At the heart of the CMA and its programs is its collection, which encompasses 7,000 works and spans 5,000 years of art history. Established in 1950, the CMA now welcomes more than 150,000 visitors annually and is a catalyst for community creativity and education, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds.

It is the recipient of a National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a National Art Education Association award for its contributions to arts education, a National Park Foundation Award, and two Governor's Awards for the Arts for outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina.

In order to serve even more audiences, the CMA underwent a transformation. Funded by a successful capital campaign, the two-year renovation project garnered

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